

^TS. JAMES'

Bicentenary 2019-2024



As Sydney's oldest church, St James' is a place of soul-stirring worship, challenging preaching and fine music. We are a progressive community that welcomes all people regardless of age, race, sexual orientation or religion.

St James' Anglican Church
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Sydney

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022

**PRESENTED TO THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
19 MARCH 2023**

S.^TJAMES'
Bicentenary 2019-2024

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ACTING RECTOR'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thanks be to God for the life and mission of this unique community of faith here at St James' King Street. I am greatly honoured and privileged to serving in the capacity of Acting Rector during this time of transition as St James' prepares for the appointment and arrival of its seventeenth rector. Please uphold the Nominators in your prayers, as we offer thanks for their dedicated work in searching for a priest who is willing to respond to the call of mission and ministry among us.

In St Mark's Gospel (Mk I:29-39), we see a glimpse into the ministry of Jesus and his disciples. It begins in the Synagogue, moves into engagement with the world, engagement with demons and illness, with the needs of those around him. Jesus then finds time for solitude with God in prayer before he returns to his mission of preaching and healing. It is in those few short verses that we are provided a pattern that continues to shape the ministry of all who would be a disciple.

We gather as a community of faith here at St James' week by week to make sense of our world, to seek meaning for our lives in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. In hearing anew the story, by faithfulness of the command to take bread and wine in memory of the One who died and rose again for us, we find communion with the God of all creation, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be the Body of Christ in our world today. Like that of Jesus, we are sent out into the world to proclaim the Gospel, to heal the wounded-ness in our lives and in the community around us. And, day by day, we are invited to find those places of solitude in which we can connect in prayer with our God who will empower us with the Spirit of the Risen Christ to be faithful disciples.

We, as Anglicans of the catholic tradition, need to be intentional about what we already do well: our worship; mission; and spirituality. All three are essential to a life of discipleship.

Worship is not an optional activity for any Christian. Worship is the heart of who we are, it is our response to God's goodness to us, and is the activity in which we envision who God is for us. It is the pattern of our lives. In worship, we are shaped by the story - by Holy Scripture, and in our actions of praise and thanksgiving, of in sharing a meal, we are connected with God in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit, and we are connected with one another in the Body of Christ.

Our relationship with one another is founded and reinforced in our common faith, and our relationship with the world is shaped by the demands of the Gospel. We are to love one another as we have been loved, and to serve one another as Christ has served us. We are called to become the voice of the outcast and the marginalised of our society. We are to feed the hungry

and to become instruments of God's justice, peace, compassion, and mercy. It is how we practice our faith.

To be disciples, to do the work of the kingdom of God, also demands our connection with God on a daily basis. We need to exercise our spiritual life so that we can continue to grow in our ministry as individuals and as a community of faith. The story will make no sense if we are not nurtured in scripture. Our praise and thanksgiving will become hollow words if, in our daily lives, we cannot find adequate time to give thanks to God for the abundance of our blessings. Our life in the Spirit of the Risen Christ will not be able to grow if we never open our lives to the movement of the Spirit in prayer.

In the following reports you will read about the many ministries which support and sustain the worship, mission, and spirituality of this vibrant and historic parish of St James' King Street.

St James' is truly blessed with many people who offer themselves for the service of worship. The choirs (The Choir of St James', and the St James' Singers) each spend many hours rehearsing to make an offering of praise to God through the sheer beauty of their music.

The fine tradition of music at St James under the leadership of Warren Trevelyan-Jones, assisted by Alistair Nelson (until November 2022), Marko Sever and Callum Knox, helps to shape the "fine reputation" the parish has developed for the high calibre of our liturgical worship.

The St James' Foundation has greatly assisted in ensuring we maintain these high standards of music through the financial distributions received by the parish to offset a portion of the cost of this ministry. We are greatly appreciative of the work of the St James' Foundation, historically and into the future.

I am grateful for the dedication we have within the congregation, those who contribute by offering the stewardship of their time and abilities to serve as Eucharistic Lay Assistants, Parish Readers, intercessors, readers, sides-people, members of the Guild of Altar Servers, The St James' Queens Square Guild of Bell-Ringers, the silver and brass cleaners, the artistic flair of our flower arrangers, and our Sacristans. All play their part and are essential to the overall presentation and experience of our worship.

Mission outreach has continued to bear witness in a significant way this past year. New ministries have been financially supported in 2022 through our mission and outreach, which involves a financial offering to parishes and organisations in the wider Church across Australia and overseas, who serve people in need. So too, the ministry of the Sr Freda Mission continues to offer hospitality by way of physical sustenance and spiritual nourishment week by week. Likewise, the parishioners of St James' continue to support the vital work of St Laurence House.

Through various programs we have sought to support and nourish the spiritual journey of all members of St James. John and Charlotte Wiltshire have led Kids@Church via Zoom and monthly face to face attendance, bringing our younger parishioners into age-appropriate spiritual engagement with both story and prayer. We are indeed blessed with the scholarship of the various educational and topical events within the St James' Institute. Thanks must go to Dr Aaron Ghiloni, whose vision and commitment over the past few years has ensured this important educational ministry serves the parish of St James, and beyond. With the recent move to the Diocese of Melbourne, and subsequent ordination of Deacon Aaron, I am grateful to Fr Glenn Maytum, who will be assisting with the 2023 programme, until such time as a new Director is appointed.

There were opportunities for participating in daily prayer and worship in the services of Morning and Evening Prayer which continue to be offered Monday to Friday via Zoom, coordinated by Catherine McClellan, and assisted by a dedicated group from within the parish. There were also the various Lent and Advent Study groups offered both face-to-face, or online across the parish.

One of the perhaps understated ministries of this congregation is the intercessory prayer group, the Guild of St Raphael. It is a group of people who have undertaken to pray for the needs of our congregation and those known to us beyond. They know that prayer makes a difference and that the Holy Spirit continues to be an instrument of healing in our world today. If you are interested in participating this discreet, yet important ministry, I encourage you to speak to myself or Nanette Danks.

We are a dynamic and loving community and yet there is always room to grow, adapt, and to change. With the upheaval of pandemic over recent years, and the now tightening economic situation, we must be mindful of our ongoing expenses and are therefore thankful for the careful management of our resources. The financial reports offer a clearer indication of the running of St James' over this last year.

We have many individuals and families on the parish roll who identify with this parish, and who worship regularly at St James.' Many of our regular worshippers give of their resources by way of planned offerings, which assists in planning for the life and ministry of this fine parish. If you wish to know more about financial stewardship, please speak to the Treasurer or a member of the Stewardship Committee who can provide direct debiting details. Without such commitment to the parish St James would not be what it is today.

An ongoing fundraising project continues to be the Organ Appeal, so knowledgeably led by Robert Marriott and his committee. The generous response of the St James' community and beyond has ensured that around half of the required cost of replacing the organ has been

achieved, to date. Thanks must go to the St James' Foundation for its part in facilitating this fundraising. Installation of the new instrument is expected to commence in January 2024.

Generosity in response to God's abundant blessings upon us extends beyond financial offerings—so many people offer time and abilities too numerous to mention in a report like this. One need only look around us Sunday by Sunday, and we see new faces. We are blessed to welcome many visitors to Sydney who choose to worship with us at St James'. So too, we have welcomed a number of people into the regular life of the parish community. Growth means change, and as a community changes it makes demand on how we communicate, and how we connect with each other.

One must be engaged to form community. The covid period brought about the need to offer live-streaming of our major services, which has allowed us to ensure those who cannot be with us in person can still participate in our worship. This has also allowed us to re-connect with people who are separated from us by the vast tyranny of distance, both across Australia, and overseas. Thanks goes to the small, but dedicated team that ensure our streaming service is maintained, albeit with the challenges and frustrations of technology and the vagaries of intermittent broadband connections! If you would like to assist with this vital ministry, please speak to James Farrow.

The bi-monthly publication, *Connections*, in both print and electronic form, remains a wonderful vehicle for ensuring that those who gather at St James' across the various service times get to know and learn about what is happening within the parish, as well as learning about the members of the wider faith community, and friends beyond.

However, electronic and print communication will never replace people-to-people contact. The community formed in Eucharist gets to know one another in conversation. Anglicans are a strange lot in many respects, as generally, we don't just eat and run. It is one of the ways we become a community who know each other by name.

Sue Mackenzie and Christopher Telford, along with dedicated group of people on their respective rosters, prepare refreshments following our Sunday services: all opportunities for hospitality, welcoming occasional visitors and newcomers to our parish.

So much around the parish occurs through acts of volunteering, so I would encourage each and every one of us in the year ahead to commit ourselves to at least one area in the life of this community in which we will offer our gifts, our time, and our commitment. If everyone responds accordingly, the ministry God gives us will go a long way towards being accomplished.

All which takes place in this large and vibrant parish, is of course overseen by a highly committed and gifted Executive and Parish Council. We are blessed to have Chris Lock, Holly

Raiche, and Alan Melrose, who have served as Wardens. So too, our Parish Council consisting of Liz Barton, Christine Cheetham, Anne Cogswell, Catherine McClellan, Roger Pitcher, Stephen Samild, Carol Webster, and Richard Willgoss. Each have brought their various abilities to the 2022 parish council. Some may be stepping aside in 2023, and we thank them for their past contribution to the efficient management of parish affairs.

It goes with saying, that the day-to-day operation of the parish would be greatly diminished without the dedicated people who are engaged by St James' King Street in various capacities: our Facilities Manager Tony Papadopoulos, Accountant Michelle Chan, Vergers Gilbert Santayana and James Farrow, shared role Administrators Dianne Ward and Jonathan Elcock, and Communications Manager Brooke Shelley (resigned Jan 2023).

In July we said farewell to Fr Andrew, Rosemary, and Kate Sempell, after twelve years in the parish. Fr Andrew's time as rector drew to its close as he and Rosemary transitioned to retirement. Well, as much as one does retire when living on a farm! I personally will miss him as a priestly colleague, however my personal friendship with Fr Andrew and Rosemary extends beyond the parish.

In the meantime, I am eternally grateful to Fr Glenn Maytum who has taken on fifteen hours a week assisting in the parish during the interregnum. So too, the invaluable support from honorary clergy and Readers who regularly assist with weekday and Sunday liturgies, and regular preaching, is greatly appreciated. Thank you to Fr's Ron Henderson, John Deane, Des Cox, and Parish Readers Dr Aaron Ghiloni, Prof. Michael Hosburgh, Alan Melrose. Likewise to Parish Reader Chris Cheetham, who has been instrumental in the establishment of the monthly Eucharist at Bowden Brae Village, Normanhurst. This is open to residents and visitors alike.

We are a practising Christian community. We are followers of Jesus Christ, firmly founded and expressed in our worship, generous in our giving to the needs of others, and fostering our relationship with God and one another. As we move through these coming months of the interregnum, and the eventual welcoming of our new rector, in the years ahead we will face new challenges in our society, in the world around us, and in this congregation.

However, I am convinced that God will provide the resources to carry out the ministry that we are called to do in this place. We will be stretched, and yes. we will grow, and above all we will continue to give praise and thanksgiving to God through Jesus Christ our Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Fr John Stewart

Parish Directory 2022**Clergy**

Rector:	The Reverend Andrew Sempell
Associate Rector:	The Reverend John Stewart
Honorary Associate Priests:	The Reverends Dr John Deane, Ron Henderson OGS & Glenn Maytum

Director, St James Institute:

Dr Aaron Ghiloni

Music Staff

Head of Music:	Warren Trevelyan-Jones
Organist:	Alistair Nelson
Organ Scholar:	Callum Knox

Administrative Staff

Facilities Manager:	Tony Papadopoulos
Communications Manager:	Brooke Shelley
Accountant:	Michelle Chan
Parish Administrator:	Dianne Ward
Parish Administrator:	Jonathan Elcock
Vergers:	Gilbert Santayana & James Farrow
Hon Archivist:	Gordon Cooper
Archives Assistant:	Colin Middleton

Worship Assistants/Coordinators

Parish Readers:	Christine Cheetham, Dr Aaron Ghiloni, Associate Professor Michael Horsburgh AM Alan Melrose
Sacristans:	Jackie Dettmann, Peter Douglas, Ross Douglas, Leigh Hess & Ian McDonald
Head Server:	Stephen Samild
Head Sidesperson:	Peter Blunden
Pastoral Coord:	Christine Cheetham
Lay Assistants Coord:	Vivien Whitfield
Readers/Intercensors Coord:	Martha McRae
Flower Coord:	Pippa Naivasha
Bell Tower Captain:	Jackie Dettmann

Other Ministries

Kids @ Church Coord:	John Wiltshire
Safe Ministry Representative:	Christine Bishop
Meditation Coordinator:	Richard Cogswell

Sister Freda Mission Coordinators:

David and Robyn Carver

Parish Library Coordinator:

Vacant

Hospitality Coordinators:

Sue Mackenzie & Dr Christopher Telford

STRATEGIC REPORTS 1.2 Rector's Report: Annual Attendance Statistics

Date	8am	10am	Kids	4pm	Total	Eucharist	Bowden	Evensong	Total	Other	M. Prayer	E. Prayer	Notes
2/1 Epiphany	20	46			66	6			6	0	116	74	
9/1 Epiphany 1	21	36			57	16					134	76	
16/1 Epiphany 2	26	46			72	10					135	81	
23/1 Epiphany 3	27	80			107	12					126	72	
30/1 Epiphany 4	34	84			118	11		21	32		127	69	
6/2 Epiphany 5	33	75			108	13		21	34	245	130	66	Queen's Accession
13/2 Epiphany 6	30	104			134	21		27	48	28	128	75	
20/2 WG Broughton	36	110			146	13		23	36		122	67	
27/2 Transfig.	33	101		40	174	30			30	44	136	67	Ash Wednesday
6/3 Lent 1	35	65			100	13		20	33	165	137	75	Tutu Memorial
13/3 Lent 2	34	81			115	12		30	42		122	72	
20/3 Lent 3	24	87			111	21		31	52		131	71	
27/3 Lent 4	33	95		65	193	16		25	41		120	75	
3/4 Lent 5	33	97			130	17		22	39		127	76	

STRATEGIC REPORTS 1.2 Rector's Report: Annual Attendance Statistics

10/4 Palm Sun.	20	124			144	16			16	464	114	39	Holy Week
17/4 Easter Day	104	206			310	16		23	39		100	57	
24/4 Easter 2	29	82		68	179	18		20	38		105	71	
1/5 Easter 3	31	79			110	13		29	42		107	72	
8/5 Easter 4	32	71			103	12		27	39		126	72	
15/5 Easter 5	21	61			82	20		26	46		121	76	
22/5 Easter 6	25	87			112	15		58	73	34	105	68	Ascension
29/5 Easter 7	38	89		42	169	13		27	40		117	66	
5/6 Pentecost	33	114			147	14		24	38		113	73	
12/6 Trinity Sunday	33	86			119	10		83	93		121	71	
19/6 Pent. 2	37	93			120	39		37	76		118	87	
26/6 Pent. 3	33	74		44	151	20		30	50		107	74	
3/7 Pent. 4	34	62			96	17		32	49		100	66	
10/7 Pent. 5	24	76			100	12		45	57		106	90	
17/7 Pent. 6	33	83			116	18		38	56		111	63	
24/7 St James	31	220		187	438	15				137	99	53	Rector's Leave Taking

STRATEGIC REPORTS 1.2 Rector's Report: Annual Attendance Statistics

31/7 Pent. 8	33	68			101	21		39	60		108	74	
7/8 Pent. 9	30	88	4		122	15		39	54		118	70	
14/8 Pent. 10	18	83			101	16	19	39	74		116	33	City to Surf
21/8 Pent. 11	34	99		34	133	24		43	67		115	71	
28/8 Pent. 12	39	96			169	15		38	53		119	66	
4/9 Pent. 13	37	99			136	29		46	75		119	38	
11/9 Pent. 14	31	104			135	21		42	63		121	45	Evensong HLMQEII
18/9 Pent. 15	18	94			112	31	28	0	59	186	97	52	Requiem HLMQEII
25/9 Pent. 16	33	94		32	159	17		39	56		116	63	
2/10 Michaelmas	34	76	9		119	7			7		113	54	
9/10 Pent. 18	24	92			116	23		41	64		126	51	
16/10 Pent. 19	21	112			133	20		39	59		121	64	
23/10 Pent. 20	37	101			138	18		26	44		123	55	
30/10 Pent. 21	22	79		70	171	13		49	62		119	62	

STRATEGIC REPORTS 1.2 Rector's Report: Annual Attendance Statistics

6/11 Pent. 22	18	94	12		124	14		29	43	47	117	59	11-Nov
13/11 Pent. 23	36	93			135	15	19	25	59		114	51	
20/11 Christ the King	26	101			127	11		25	36		121	69	
27/11 Advent 1	40	84		100	224	16		29	45		118	81	
4/12 Advent 2	33	87			110	23		25	48		115	71	
11/12 Advent 3	34	89			123	14		26	40		17	57	
18/12 Advent 4	36	83			446	22	28	26	76		123	48	Carols
24/12 Christmas Eve		263		120		0		26					
25/12 Christmas Day	105	133				13		26			80	0	

Total Attendance (Not including Pastoral offices)		
Day	Number	Average/Week
Sunday:	7544	145
Weekday:	2289	44
Other:	1350	25
Total:	11,183	215
Morning/Evening Prayer	9345	179/w (25 daily)

Pastoral Offices	
Weddings	5
Baptisms	14
Funerals	8
Memorial Services	2
Immurement of Ashes	5

Wardens' Non-Financial Report

Introduction

The Parish Administration Ordinance 2008 (church law) sets out the responsibilities of wardens in any parish within the Diocese of Sydney. These responsibilities generally fit into one of two categories:

Financial, including:

- the proper management, security and financial administration of all money and other property
- keeping proper accounting records of all money received and expended by the wardens
- preparing financial reports, statements, accounts and arranging audits.

Property, including:

- keeping order in the historic church building and its grounds
- ensuring proper care is taken of the church and other things relating to the conduct of services of public worship
- arranging repairs to the church and the 2 church residences in Paddington and Chatswood
- managing St. James' Hall in accordance with its own Ordinance (including repairs, leasing to tenants and future use strategy)
- granting licences to permit outside persons and groups to use church or parish property

Wardens also have responsibility for:

- paying stipends and other amounts to clergy
- appointment and payment of paid workers and removal if necessary

The Rector is responsible for the spiritual welfare of the parish, the wardens for the finance and property. Together they form the Parish Executive.

The present wardens choose to 'spread the load' by each of them leading certain aspects of the wardens' responsibilities and checking with the others prior to decisions or commitments being made by all three together. This isn't a formal part of church rules but has worked very successfully in this parish over the last few years. Neither is the allocation of responsibility set in stone, wardens bring different skills and experience, the division of responsibility changes to best suit the skills of the wardens at the time. Individual wardens will also take the lead on special projects as required.

The wardens have delegated the performance of some of their responsibilities to others, we are blessed by having an accountant (Michelle Chan) and a facilities manager (Tony Papadopoulos) on staff and we are very grateful for their contributions.

Managing this workload on a voluntary basis would not be possible without the strong day-to-day support that we continually received from Fr Andrew Sempell (until his retirement mid-year) and from Fr John Stewart. We are greatly blessed at St James' with very hard working, gifted clergy, not forgetting part-time and honorary clergy.

The parish is blessed with committed staff and volunteers who enable the parish to deliver its extensive schedule of worship and related activities - the wardens acknowledge and greatly appreciate their dedication and commitment.

Interregnum

Fr Andrew attended his last Parish Council meeting on 28 June 2022 and effectively left the parish for his retirement with Rosemary at the Patronal festival on 25 July (taking leave and long service leave). Several 'leaving events' were held and many 'votes of thanks' given: the wardens repeat those heartfelt thanks to Fr Andrew for many years of service and wish the Sempell family God's blessings on the next chapter of their lives.

The Nominators sprung into action and have been working through the process of identifying potential new Rectors and going through the formal Diocesan processes. The wardens are extremely grateful to the 5 Nominators for their hard work and diligence in what is a very difficult task. We prayerfully trust that the Lord will stir up and identify the right man for St. James'.

But any interregnum (from Latin *inter* - "between" + *regnum* meaning "reign" – i.e. the time during which a throne is vacant between two successive regimes) is unsettling and causes anxiety. The wardens are aware that this is a difficult time for many. On the surface, most services and activities in the parish have continued without noticeable change. However, the clergy are under increased pressure (Fr John particularly, having stepped up as Acting Rector, is now doing two jobs at once) and the staff are covering for a number of small administrative things previously done by the Rector.

Some parishioners might be aware of some small cracks in what appeared to be a relatively seamless system from the outside. The wardens acknowledge this and are very grateful to the many staff and volunteers who have stepped up to fill gaps. The 'swan' is still gliding along the surface, but the paddling below the waterline is furious. The wardens acknowledge the anxiety and ask for your patience and understanding (and perhaps your volunteering!).

The wardens express their deep thanks to Fr John for his work as Acting Rector.

Finance

See separate "Wardens Financial Documentation" report for the parish finances.

Historic church building

Day to day management of the historic church building rests with our facilities manager, Tony Papadopoulos, supported by part time and casual vergers Gilbert Santayana, James Farrow and Jesse Taylor. The wardens are very thankful for the work of these 'behind the scenes' folk, without whose efforts the building and the various liturgical services would be so much the poorer.

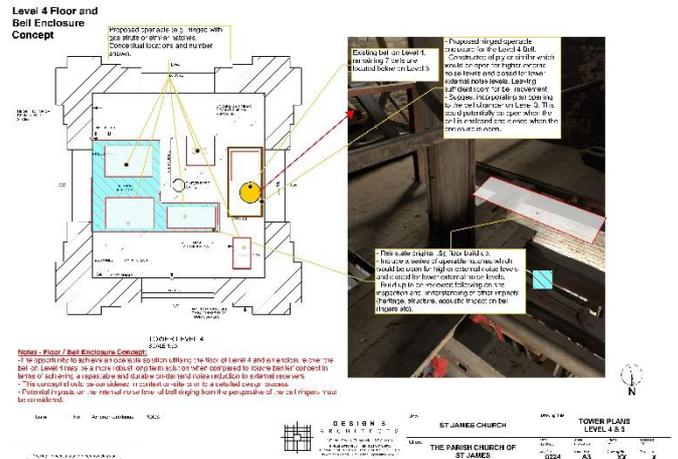
A number of matters have arisen and projects started or finished that are worthy of note:

Church Bells

Parishioners will recall the wardens received a formal complaint in June 2021 through an officer from the Environmental Health Surveyor, Health & Building department of the City of Sydney regarding the noise of the bells.

Measurement of the bell noise has been completed and the results received. A final analysis has been received from the consultant.

A design for soundproofing has been engineered and advice is being sought from a Town Planner as to whether or not a Development Application is required.



Skateboard deterrents

6mm x 75mm x 75mm stainless skateboard deterrent blades have been manufactured and have been installed, following approval from the City of Sydney.



Downpipes

A copper down pipe was stolen, a report made to the police and an event number received. St Mary's Cathedral also had 4 copper down pipes stolen, as did other historic heritage buildings in the city area.

The new replacement copper down pipe was installed in September together with a stainless steel internal bracket (to make cutting by hand impossible for a future potential thief).



Church Lighting

It was always part of the new pipe organ project to review the lighting in the chancel and sanctuary areas, to allow the instrument to be shown to its best effect and to allow musicians sufficient light to read music and perform. However, with the extensive use of livestreaming due to COVID, it became apparent that a lighting upgrade was more urgent.

The wardens were conscious of a number of issues regarding lighting inside the church:

- lighting for the livestream cameras is very poor, causing silhouettes and 'flares'
- upgraded lighting shouldn't look like a 'stage show'
- the Choir and Singers need more light
- it is helpful for the organist to have the choir well lit, the organ console lights are lower than ideal, so that the contrast isn't too great when looking to the conductor
- there are events in St. James' - such as concerts - where some sort of 'stageyness' is fitting
- some services (e.g., 9 Lessons and Carols) require incremental lighting
- the lighting must be easy and simple to use

The wardens entered into a contract for new lighting at the east end of the church (sanctuary, chancel and part of the nave) and the contractor, Lancet, has almost finished the project (waiting on some missing pieces for the apse 'wash' lighting). The new lights were particularly successful and commented upon at the orchestral masses in January 2023. A member of the congregation has asked if the whole nave could be re-lit!

Paddington Residence

Some years ago, under the guidance of the former Rector, the parish applied for and received Development Application approval for major extensions and alterations to the Paddington residence (Rectory). This was necessary as the Rectory doesn't comply with the standards set by the Diocese.

When it became apparent that the former Rector was intending to retire, consultants were engaged to prepare construction drawings and call for tenders, with the intention that the works would be done during the interregnum and the Rectory fit-for-purpose for a new Rector.

It was anticipated that tenders would be in the order of \$700,000.

4 tenderers were invited to tender, two withdrew during the tender period and two tenders were received.

Tender results were:

	Tenderer A	Tenderer B
Total Cost Incl. GST	\$1,485,000.00	\$1,727,275.00

Following detailed discussions with our architects Gardiner Wetherill (who had successfully completed the toilet renovations for us in the crypt) and a subsequent meeting with the Acting Rector and wardens, we agreed the tender prices are much higher than expected and not value for money for SJKS. Following discussions with Parish Council, it was agreed that the project was to go on hold. Savings are to be considered and funds to be sourced. A final decision will be guided by the appointment of a new Rector and his family circumstances and requirements.

Chatswood Residence

There was a serious ingress of water into the Chatswood residence during a rain event. Investigations showed that the roof tiles were extremely brittle, cracked and at the end of their useful life. The roof was retiled in August and new metal capping installed. Ceilings were repainted and carpets steam cleaned.



St. James' Hall

See separate "Wardens Financial Documentation" report for the St. James' Hall finances.

Monthly meetings between SJKS and the Hall Managing agents, Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL).

Board of Management

The Board of Management (BoM) met in person three times in 2022 and once 'on the papers'. Matters considered included the 2023 budget, the accounts, leasing and maintenance.

The only matter of major significance related to the three lifts in the Hall, which have come to the end of their useful life. The BoM advised the wardens that the lifts should be replaced (c\$1.5^m).

Stuart Westgarth is proposing to resign as Chair and as a Member at the forthcoming March meeting of the Board of Management. The wardens give thanks for Stuart's contribution and dedication over many years' service. A new Member is being sought.

Leasing

As noted in last year's report, market conditions for legal/barrister tenants have changed considerably, due to the COVID pandemic, the prevalence of working from home, the change in Court face-to-face working and the fact that several new buildings in the immediate vicinity are coming to market in the near term. The quality of the St. James' Hall has been slowly deteriorating relative to new buildings, such that experts now classify it as C-Grade.

Acknowledging the above, and the needs of both the parish and the Diocese to secure future distributions from the Hall, the BoM and wardens agreed a leasing strategy with the Managing Agent to “meet the market” - a manageable reduction in net rent, but with the security of new lease income.

The Hall is now fully tenanted with the exception of Level 4, which is on the market.

Insurance

The insurers have made one visit to inspect the non-building assets of the parish (church furniture, silverware, vestments etc.), were unable to complete the audit in one day and will return (James Balfour leading).

St. James' Foundations

The wardens gratefully acknowledge the philanthropy of donors to the St James' Music Foundation for the major contribution this makes to the ongoing funding of music in the parish. We are blessed with a beautiful heritage building in which to worship and the best of choral music.

The wardens also gratefully acknowledge the philanthropy of donors to the St James' Building Foundation for the major contribution this makes to the ongoing funding of maintenance work to the church building.

The wardens also gratefully acknowledge work of the Trustee in managing the two Trusts and the St. James' Organ Appeal Committee.

New Pipe Organ

Parishioners will recall that we heard that a fire destroyed the factory of Dobson Organ Builders at Lake City, Iowa, USA, on 16th June 2021. As we later found out, the organ intended for St. James' was completely destroyed.

A 'force majeure' event was declared on the Dobson contract was put on hold.

In consultation with Dobson and the Organ Working Group, the wardens proceeded with Stage 1 base building works (removal of the old organ), which were successfully completed in October/November with the church returned to the new normal by Sunday 27 November (Advent).

The Organ Working Group met to collect and collate 'lessons learned' from the Stage 1 works (which were considered to be very successful) for incorporation into Stage 2 works.



The 'force majeure' event has now been lifted and a new program and payment schedule agreed with Dobson (awaiting a formal letter of confirmation).

In regard to schedule, Dobson has advised:

"We have looked over our schedule for the coming year, and propose the following for the delivery and installation of the new organ."

We believe we will complete the organ in our works in October of this year [2023], and pack it for shipping by 1 November. Our shipping agent is advising that six to eight weeks are currently required portal-to-portal, so we would look for the organ's arrival in Sydney by the end of this year. (Shipping times are fluid; we'll monitor this and adjust accordingly.) Our installation team would depart for Sydney on Thursday 4 January 2024, with installation commencing on Monday 8 January 2024. We are estimating eight weeks for the physical installation of the organ, but the majority of its components will be in place (i.e., not on the church floor or otherwise in the way) after only two or three weeks. This means physical installation of the organ is completed about three weeks before Easter, which I hope is not too great a disturbance."

The organ consultant and the Wardens endorse both program and payment schedule.

Dobson has sent some recent progress photographs:



Figure 2 Façade posts are being installed in the cantoris (left/north) case.



Figure 1 Many of the Pedal pipes stand in this area.



Figure 4 The console woodwork has been stained and polished.



Figure 5 Control panels for the combination action will be fitted in the rectangular holes.



Figure 5 The back of the console and its bench.



Figure 6 Bass pipes of the Solo Violin d'Orchestre 16'.



Figure 7 This is the organ's left side, where the Swell and much of the Pedal is located. The wooden framework on the floor locates all components. It was carefully levelled using a laser transit (the yellow item on a tripod at the left rear) before anything was placed on it; if you look closely, you can see shims placed at intervals under the floor frame. You will also note the many small wooden blocks around two sides of its perimeter, where the façade posts will stand. You can see in the bottom of the photo the wooden duct that carries the pressurized air from the blower closet (which will be on the right, through a wall in the church). This duct connects the blower to the bellows, two of which are in the middle of the photo. In the background are some of the façade pipes, covered in blue plastic masking for protection.

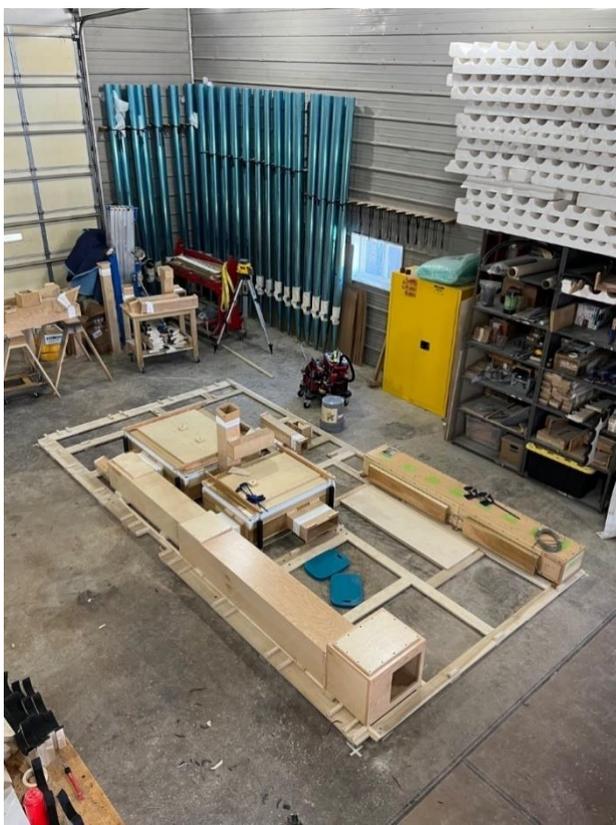


Figure 8 This view permits you to see the soundboard for the largest pipes of the Pedal Open Wood 16' on the right, at what is the rear corner of the organ. The green masking tape keeps dust and dirt out of the valves.



The replacement manuals (3) in the temporary Hauptwerk organ have arrived and have been successfully installed.

We are currently negotiating with the base building works, through our architects Design 5, the program for the second stage of the ceiling and roof works (which involve scaffolding the whole of the church in stages).

Jardin St James

The owners of Jardin St. James' operating in the crypt (The Sydney Restaurant Group, SRG) sold their shares to a new company (owned by 2 barristers who were formerly employees of SRG). The wardens, on legal advice, took the opportunity to re-baseline the rent and clarify some previously contentious terms. The new licence has been executed and the new owners are operating apparently successfully.

Staffing

Warren Trevelyan-Jones has returned to work following his (non-work related) cycling accident in 2021.

Alistair Nelson ceased employment on 30 November 2022. The wardens are very grateful for Alistair's service over many years and wish him every success in his new endeavours, which Alistair has told us is in the area of teaching.

Aidan O'Donnell (from the St. James' choir) continues in the work of administration assistant to the music department, for approximately 35 hours per month, at times to suit the needs of the work, until Easter 2023.

Marko Sever (previous organ scholar at St. James') has been retained from 4 October to Easter 2023 in a newly created temporary position of Acting Assistant Head of Music.

Broke Shelley resigned in late January 2023 and, as she had already booked 2 weeks leave, her practical notice period was 2 weeks. James Farrow has stepped in on a temporary casual basis.

The interregnum and changes in some personal circumstances have provided an opportunity for staffing (including in the music department) to be reviewed by the Acting Rector and wardens. Alistair Nelson and Brooke Shelley have left, Marko Sever Aidan and James Farrow

have taken on temporary roles, Jonathan Elcock has modified his hours of work to give 4 days cover, and applications are being reviewed for the role of Assistant Head of Music.

Temporary and acting arrangements are working satisfactorily at the moment but are not sustainable long term. We are also conscious that a new Rector must be given the opportunity to influence longer-term staffing arrangements.

The strategy that the Acting Rector and wardens have broadly agreed is:

- We will appoint people with 'domain expertise' for specific roles (we have tried 'generalists' and 'enthusiastic learners' without success)
- The Deputy Head of Music is our first priority
- Once the skills and capacity of the new DHoM have been confirmed (e.g. days working per week; additional skills brought to the role – if any - such as administration, marketing etc.) then the other temporary positions can be considered
- Permanent, potentially parttime, roles with domain expertise will include:
 - Music administration (currently Aiden)
 - Marketing (parish, music, St. James' Institute) (currently James)
 - Director of St. James' institute (currently Aaron remotely until a review in June 2023)
- Finally, office administration to be reviewed

Questions?

The wardens feel privileged to serve the parish and are happy to answer any questions related to their role and this report.

Holly Raiche, Alan Melrose, Chris Lock

March 2023

ST JAMES' INSTITUTE REPORT

2022: A Year of Growth

- **Events.** The Institute ran 29 events in 2022:
 - Seminars: 17
 - Trinity College intensives and seminars: 3
 - Book studies: 4
 - Quiet days: 3
 - Roundtables: 2

A detailed listing of these events is below.

In 2022, the Institute was fortunate to attract guest speakers with exceptional credentials, including presenters from Switzerland, India, and the USA (Atascadero, Boston, Washington D.C.). Many seminars featured two speakers, and the Institute had more female presenters than male in 2022.

• **Publicity.** In 2022, the Institute was covered in three publications: *Via Media* (Anglicans Together), *Eternity*, *SBS Arabic* (pictured).¹ and 2 Advertising was purchased in *Southern Cross* (print), *Eternity* (online), and *The Melbourne Anglican* (online).

1 eternitynews.com.au/australia/the-complicated-layers-of-being-an-abused-christian-wife

2 sbs.com.au/language/arabic/ar/article/believers-need-to-have-a-common-front-how-muslims-view-the-gospels-and-how-christians-view-quran/g2mirl1uf

• **Subscribers and Attendance.** The Institute had its highest number of subscribers to date. Attendance at Institute events (by subscribers and single-ticket purchasers) was strong, as indicated by statistics regularly reported to Parish Council.

• **Technology.** An innovation was to make all seminars available via livestream or by webinar. Recordings were made available to subscribers. The Institute's website was refreshed with updated and expanded content. The Institute's social media channels are active.



• **Engagement.** The Institute Director represented the Institute in public forums including a symposium on social cohesion and religion co-sponsored by Affinity Intercultural Foundation and Macquarie University, and an iftar at Parliament House.

Seminars

- Building a Proud and Progressive Christian Community – Rev. Abigail Henrich and Dr Jon Paul Sydnor. Respondents: Rev. Adrian Sukumar-White and Co-Pastor Steff Fenton
- Economics and the Prosperity Gospel – Dr Paul Oslington. Respondent: Dr Keith Carpenter
- The Anglican Way: Balancing Multiple Belonging with Resistant Unbelonging for Blessed Kin[g]dom Becoming – Rev'd Prof Sathianathan Clarke. Respondent: Rev'd Elaine Farmer
- Creating Safe Spaces in Church: Responding to Domestic Violence in Faith Communities – Lynda Dunstan, Rev'd Tracey Lauersen, Nicola Lock, Kylie Maddox-Pidgeon
- In Conversation: Preparing for Holy Week and Easter – Rt Rev'd Prof Stephen Pickard. Interviewer: Rev'd Andrew Sempell
- End-of-Life Care: Spiritual and Pastoral Dimensions – Assoc Prof Rosalie Hudson
- The Fifth Robin Sharwood Lecture in Church Law – Michael Shand AM QC
- Ebru Marbling Workshop: An art-based interfaith event – Islamic Sciences and Research Academy
- Ageing, Mortality, and Spiritual Existence Today – Rt Rev'd Prof Stephen Pickard
- Twenty-Minute Talk: Gabriel Jackson's *Mass of St James'* – Dr Robert Forgács (with a bonus interview of Gabriel Jackson by Warren Trevelyan-Jones provided to attendees)
- A Muslim's View of Jesus and A Christian's View of Muhammad – Assoc Prof Mehmet Ozalp and Dr Aaron Ghiloni. Moderator: Prof Emerita Alanna Nobbs AM
- A Muslim's View of the Gospels & A Christian's View of the Qur'an – Assoc Prof Mehmet Ozalp and Dr Aaron Ghiloni. Held at Islamic Sciences and Research Academy
- Hunger, Rage, and the New Testament – Revved Prof Luzia Sutter Rehmann and Monica Buckland
- Christian Women in Leadership – Major General Suzanne Graham CSC, April Palmerlee, Elinor Trevelyan-Jones, Carol Webster SC
- Cancer and the Creator – Rev'd Dr Aaron T. Smith. Respondent: Rev'd Assoc Prof Neil Pembroke

- Afterlives of Jesus: Global Perspectives on the Future of Jesus – Rev'd Dr Greg Jenks.
Respondent Assoc Prof Michele Connolly, RSJ
- Islamophobia: A Christian Response – Jordan Denari Duffner and Dr Derya Iner

Trinity College Intensives and Seminars

The St James' Institute is in partnership with Trinity College Theological School (Melbourne). The partnership provides for tertiary courses in theology to be delivered in Sydney. Courses are accredited through the University of Divinity.

- Introducing the Gospel of Luke: "An orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us" – Rev'd Canon Dr Robert Derrenbacher
- The Gospel of Luke: "Proclaim the Year of the Lord's Favour" – Rev'd Canon Dr Robert Derrenbacher
- Abraham: An Introduction to the Politics and Promises of the Book of Genesis – Assoc Prof Rachelle Gilmour
- Three Meet the Academic Dean meetings were held

Book Studies

- *The Difficult Words of Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine – Lent
- *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr
- *The Madness of Grief* by Richard Coles
- *Being Disciples* by Rowan Williams – Advent

Quiet Days

Three Saturdays were focused on nurturing spiritual practices. These days were led by leaders of different prayers groups in the parish.

- Meditation – Led by Richard Cogswell and Anne Collier of the Christian Mediation group

- Praying the Hours – Led by Catherine McClellan of the Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer groups. Speakers: Rev'd Catherine Eaton, Assoc Prof Michael Horsburgh AM
- Lectio Divina – Led by Nick Ingram and Liz Faulkner of the Resting Space group

Roundtables

At the invitation of the Rector and Institute Director, leaders from various sectors were gathered to share lunch and in-depth conversation.

- Refugee Crisis – co-sponsored with Affinity Intercultural Foundation
- Anglican Church Law

Governance and Administration

- Dr Keith Carpenter retired from the Institute Board in 2022. Keith was Chair since the Board's inception in 2014. For his dedicated service, Dr Carpenter was recognised with a Parish Commendation on 21 August 2022.
- Belinda Howell, already a member of the Board, was appointed by Parish Council as Chair of the Institute Board for a four-year term (one year of her current appointment plus three years on a reappointment).
- The Parish Council's representative on the Institute Board was Roger Pitcher.
- Michelle Roberts was appointed by Parish Council to the Board in 2022 for a three-year term.
- Jesse Taylor was employed as a casual assistant to help with event-day logistics. A dedicated team of volunteers also assisted with event-day operations.
- The Institute Director provided scheduled quarterly reports to the Parish Executive and the Parish Council, along with additional reports throughout the year.

Dr Aaron Ghiloni, Director of the St James' Institute

19 March 2023

HOSPITALITY

Morning Tea after 8am Service

The tradition of morning tea in the crypt after the 8am service on the first Sunday of every month continues. This gathering continues to be well-attended as people enjoy each other's company. Food is provided by a different parishioner each month and fellowship is enjoyed by all.

On other Sunday mornings, some of the 8 o'clockers go to a local café after the service to enjoy getting together.

On a couple of occasions, the morning tea has been postponed to a week later as a result of disruption in the city due to major events taking place. These affect parking and transport in general and make it difficult for many parishioners to get to church.

Jackie Dettmann

February 2023

Post-10am Morning Tea – former 9am teams

In 2022, Sunday morning services were held at 8am and 10am, continuing the practice established when COVID-19 first started. Once refreshments could be provided again in mid-2022 after a hiatus due to a renewed concern about COVID-19, we continued the practice established in 2021. This meant that both the former 9am teams and the former 11am teams could be involved. The 9am teams prepare and serve Morning Tea after the 10am service for one month, and during the next month, the 11am teams provide refreshments after this service. This continues throughout the year and seems to work well.

As most people are aware, the 9am teams serve tea and coffee, whereas the 11am teams serve wine and now tea and coffee as well, with both groups also providing light refreshments such as sandwiches, sausage rolls, mini-quiches, cakes, etc.

Although the 11am teams cannot ask for donations, since it is illegal to do so when serving alcohol, we do ask for donations when the 9am teams are on duty. This money rightly goes to Parish funds. The Parish supplies milk, tea, coffee, sugar, while the volunteers provide the food, such as sandwiches, cakes, fruit, mini quiches, and other assorted goodies.

I would like to thank all those willing volunteers who work so hard in the preparing and serving of refreshments, as well as clearing up afterwards. The Vergers, too, are very helpful both before and after morning tea. They and the Facilities Manager, who ensures supplies of tea and coffee, etc. are on hand, should be thanked as well. I am very grateful for everyone's willingness and good humour.

Hospitality is an important ministry which is appreciated by parishioners and visitors alike. It allows us to become better acquainted and share fellowship, but it also presents a welcoming face to visitors so that they feel included too.

But we do need more help! The team that is rostered on for the fifth Sunday of the month is especially short of members. As we are only on duty every second month and there are not many months of the year which have five Sundays, this role is not an onerous one. If anyone can help, please contact me.

Sue Mackenzie (9am Co-ordinator)

WEDNESDAY MEDITATION GROUP

Anne and I still lead this online Christian meditation group. Since 1989 the group has met for meditation at 7.45 on Wednesday mornings. For almost all of those years the group met in the crypt, but of course COVID put paid to that. And like many others, we've become used to Zoom and those attending have increased and now come from not only the parish, but regional NSW and overseas.

Our form of meditation is mantra based in the tradition of Father John Main OSB.

We have a mailing group of over a dozen. Those who are available on a Wednesday join in. We listen to an online talk about Christian Meditation then we meditate for 25 minutes followed by reading the gospel for the day from the Lectionary. The those of us who can, stay on for a short chat.

Anyone is welcome to join, even just to try it out. Send me an email (richardcogswell@hotmail.com) and I will put you on the list to receive the link.

Richard Cogswell

FRIDAY MEDITATION GROUP

The Friday Meditation Group meet face to face in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit every Fridays from 1.10 pm to 1.50 pm.

Our regular attendance numbers have declined a lot due to health issues and there are those who just came in once. As with Tuesday's and Wednesday's meditation groups, the Friday meditation is mantra, based in the tradition of Father John Main OSB.

Friday's Meditation is open to all, should anyone would like to pop in to meditate during their lunch hour on Fridays.

Mary Sattin.

MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

St James 'tithes' one tenth of the year's offertories, distributing the money to a range of charitable purposes. The task of distributing the 'tithes' funds for this year (\$30,000) was undertaken by the Mission and Outreach Committee, with Parish Council approval.

As forecast in the Committee's report to the 2021 AGM, the amount of offertories was calculated from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022.

The Committee (Robert Marriott and Holly Raiche) based its allocations on the three themes of the Parish Strategic Plan: social justice, inclusion (people on the margins) and Classically Anglican. We also seek to balance allocations between local, national and international.

The five recipients are as follows:

Social Justice

- Asylum Seekers for continued assistance to asylum seekers (\$5,000)
- Institute for Faith and Gender Empowerment for their continuing work in Kenya (\$5,000)

Inclusion

- Diocese of Willochra, supporting travel to provide ministry services (including baptisms, weddings and funerals) to the very remote areas of South Australia (\$5,000)
- Act For Peace – Ukraine Appeal to provide support for Ukrainians impacted by the crisis (5,000)

Classically Anglican

- St Laurence House for its continued support of homeless youths in Sydney and in recognition of the close connection St James' church enjoys with the Church of St Laurence. (\$10,000)

The Committee also retained \$4,000, to address possible emergencies

Mission and Outreach Committee

THE SISTER FREDA MISSION

The Mission continues to thrive much as it has always done since 1895 when it was begun by the Community of the Sisters of the Church, an English Religious Order that started the Collegiate School in Paddington in 1893. Sister Freda, who was a member of the Order, took over the organisation of the Mission in 1899. When she died in 1936 her name was given to the Mission & St James' took over responsibility for its operation.

The need for a basic meal in safe surrounds is as important now as it was in 1895. The number of guests averages around 60/70 for lunch and continues to be served every Sunday.

We have been fortunate to be able to continue to link with the rescue food organisation Oz Harvest which collects quality excess food from many commercial outlets and delivers it direct and free of charge to many charities including the Sister Freda Mission. The quantity varies but it is all excellent food within use by dates & our guests enjoy the variety, often being able to take extra food home for another meal or share with a friend.

Streets Ice Creams have continued to support the Mission & continue to regularly donate ice creams and a very large ham last Christmas which were very much appreciated.

Disappointingly our annual Christmas Lunch could not be held last year but our guests were able to enjoy the special takeaway boxes which were provided. Through the generosity of parishioners, a number of hams (in addition to that received from Streets) were carved & included in the boxes together with other Christmas fare. The Kids at Church prepared a very large number of small packages of lollies which were very well received.

The annual donation of socks, beanies & gloves during winter time was again well supported by many parishioners. Kids at Church were also a huge help in making up gift cards for all these gifts, to which they added a very personal note. The young ones at St Paul's Lutheran Church in Stanley St also prepared cards for the gifts of socks from their church. A practical gift and very well received. Thank you all.

We would like to thank all our volunteers who have provided their time through the year & also a big thank you to those who have so generously donated funds to help this important Ministry. Donations (which are tax deductible) are of course always welcome. The parish office can provide bank details if transferring electronically/directly is preferred.

We always need more volunteers. If you would like to join or simply come along one Sunday to see what is involved, please contact us.

David & Robyn Carver
Co-Ordinators

ST LAURENCE HOUSE REPORT

Yet again, St Laurence House has faced a challenging year – but it has brought out the best in our team and we have continued to move forward steadily. The Covid pandemic has featured throughout the year, but we have learned how to live with it and it no longer dominates our everyday lives.

Our major focus has been to grow the capabilities of our service. We recognise that it will always be difficult to run a small service with only one house of five beds. So while our dedicated team has continued to focus on the needs of the children and young people in our care, we are also closely looking at options to expand our service.

With this in mind, St Laurence House has continued to be engaged in a major programme to review and improve all aspects of its operations. This “accreditation” process focuses on best-in-class service. Jenny Piaud, a member of our Management Committee, has done an outstanding job of leading a small team to complete this task.

As well as a focus on Governance, we have made key appointments not only to our staffing. Nikki Butterfield, in the new role of Residential Team Leader, has had a very positive impact on the whole team, and we have made key appointments to the Management Committee. We now have the skills and experience to continue moving forward for the longer-term benefit of our clients

Our supporters’ generous contributions have once again enabled us to provide 24/7 support to ‘at risk’ young people, as well as the semi-supported units for young adults through our STAY (Supported Transitional Accommodation for Youth) Program.

Thank you to Nigel Parker, our Executive Officer, and his staff, both new and long-standing, for their excellent work in continuing the teaching of life skills to young people in a supportive environment. Thank you also to the members of the Committee of Management for their untiring work this year. Thank you, too, to the many stakeholders that we work with in the Homelessness sector and who also strive to get our clients back on track.

Alan Soutar

Chair of SLH Management Committee

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

The group known as ‘*Who is my neighbour?*’ came together in 2013 in response to several challenging sermons at St James’ and the policy decisions being made by Australian Governments around the treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (Uluru Statement), refugees and asylum seekers.

The group has continued to function during the COVID 19 pandemic and this has been done via email and has included a Zoom meeting every couple of months.

With the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban forces, Australia said it would offer humanitarian visas and family reunions. Our friend Sabera applied for one of these visas for her brother Ali, his wife and two young sons. St James also put in a visa application to say we would support Sabera and help to bring her family to Australia. It appears that a million visas including these

visas were not processed up to May 2022 by the Commonwealth Department of Immigration. In the meantime due to persecution and the deaths of Hazaras in Afghanistan, Ali and his family have moved to Turkey to escape the treatment of this ethnic group by the Taliban. However, they only have a temporary visa and could be sent back to Afghanistan. St James continues to offer support to this family and prays that our government will move quickly to offer asylum to this family. Numbers of the group have written to the Minister for Immigration and to our local members about this family.

Who is my neighbour? approached Father Andrew Sempell about a proposal to develop a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) for St James for the Bicentenary. He encouraged this idea and a working party was set up to embark upon this task. The group used the World Vision template for churches wanting to develop a RAP. A draft RAP was used to consult with three Aboriginal Leaders and to seek their views which they kindly contributed at a Zoom meeting. These comments and ideas were incorporated into the next draft RAP document which has gone to Parish Council. When finalised, this draft RAP will need to be sent to Reconciliation NSW for ratification. We thank Father Andrew, Rev' t Glenn Maytum, Ms Brooke Shelley and the members of the RAP working group for their contribution to this process.

The group continues to support the Asylum Seekers Centre at Newtown but during COVID 19, we have been unable to volunteer.

The group has continued to write for Connections and to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart – Voice, Treaty and Truth. We look forward to a positive outcome for the referendum on the Voice. Sydney Synod overwhelmingly passed a resolution on the Voice at its meeting on 13th September 2022

Ms Larissa Minniecon moved the following motion (seconded Rev John Stanley) –

Synod of the Diocese of Sydney –

(i) perceiving the opportunity for all Australians to contribute to a matter of national importance,

(ii) recognising it to be an essential step in reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples,

(iii) perceiving it to relate to the social, spiritual, and economic wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and

(iv) believing it will empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to create a better future for their communities to flourish –

(a) welcomes the conversation regarding the call to establish a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution,

(b) commits to learning more, and educating all Anglicans, about the Voice 'From the Heart', and

(c) encourages church members to give generous consideration to the case to vote 'Yes' to the referendum question of whether the Constitution should establish a First Nations Voice, once the details have been made clear.

This was supported by our Synod Representatives Alan Melrose and Chris Lock and brought to the attention of the Parish Council and the congregation following the Synod meeting.

Who is my neighbour? is a challenge to us all to act with grace, kindness and mercy to the people who are our neighbours and especially to those due to their particular circumstances who need our support. The group is open to all interested people to join the email group, attend the Zoom meetings about every two months and to attend an in-person meeting at the St James Institute when we have an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander speaker.

Elizabeth (Libby) Hindmarsh on behalf of 'Who is my neighbour?'

HEAD OF MUSIC

As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic of the last few years, the parish music ministry is now back providing a full music programme to support our liturgical programme and broader music initiatives: evening and lunchtime concerts, orchestral masses and many special services are now happening again. The St James' Singers offer a regular contribution of two services per month, and The Choir of St James' has benefited from retaining an established team of high-quality singers, supplemented by some excellent young Choral Scholars

At our Patronal Festival in 2022 and as part of the farewells to our departing Rector, Fr. Andrew Sempell, the Choir gave a world premiere performance of our orchestral mass commission for the Church's bicentenary, Gabriel Jacksons' Mass of St James'. It was a thrill to give the first performance of this stunning new work, and I am so grateful to our generous donors who funded the commissioning of this new work.

In addition to several well-attended evening concerts, the choir travelled to Melbourne in October 2022 to sing with the choirs of St John's Camberwell and Trinity College, University of Melbourne. The Choir was thrilled to make their debut with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in a new commission by Australian jazz composer Paul Grabowski, conducted by Ben Northey.

Over the last twelve months, we have said farewell to Parish Organist Alistair Nelson. Alistair had been with us for 11 years, during which time he led the St James' Singers and been integral to the planning phase for our new pipe organ. He was part of the expanding music ministry over this time and will be remembered for his significant contribution to our Subscription Concert Series as well his excellent playing in Parish services.

As part of the restructure of the Music Department, we are delighted to welcome back Marko Sever (former Organ Scholar at St James') to the role of Acting Assistant Director of Music. Marko has overseen the installation of a temporary digital organ following the removal of our old pipe organ in late 2022, and provides excellent assistance to the music department with his playing, directing and administration skills.

Following the devastating fire at the Dobson Organ Factory in Iowa (US), we have received news of further delays to the delivery of our new pipe organ. Further engineering and acoustical work to the church is expected in coming months, and we look forward to the new organ arriving at the end of 2023 and its installation in the opening months of 2024.

Finally, I would like to thank the Parish, the St James' Music Foundation and the Friends of Music for their support of the music ministry at St James', as well as our loyal and generous donors who support our musicians and a wide range of activities within the Parish music ministry.

Warren Trevelyan-Jones, Head of Music

THE ST JAMES' ORGAN REPLACEMENT AND RESTORATION APPEAL

The ramifications of the fire in the Dobson workshop in 2021 and the disruption caused by the pandemic are still playing out in delays to the schedule for the installation of the new St James' organ. While it was anticipated to have the instrument installed by April 2023, delivery is now slated for December 2023, the installation rescheduled to begin in January 2024 and completion estimated for Easter 2024.

Delays notwithstanding, the new instrument is now more keenly anticipated than ever. It will still be able to be commissioned within the Parish Bicentenary celebration period of 2019 - 2024.

As parishioners will have noticed, work has already started to prepare the church for the installation. The old organ was removed in November 2022. A temporary instrument is in use. Works to install new lighting have taken place. Further works are to be undertaken in the ceiling to improve the acoustic qualities of the building. All will be ready in good time for the arrival of the new organ.

The Appeal to help fund the project has continued to enjoy strong support, for which the Appeal Committee is most grateful. It is encouraging to know that, despite the unforeseen delays, there are many committed and generous donors who support the music of the Parish. Thank you.

The Appeal Committee has continued with a number of activities in 2022, most notably:

- Regular updates on the status of the Appeal and the project were sent to donors to keep them informed of developments;
- A Cocktail Party for key donors was held on 6 May 2022, to provide a progress report on the Appeal and information about the upcoming Parish music programme, which resulted in several substantial end of financial year donations;
- A successful and enjoyable Gala Dinner was held at The Fullerton Hotel on 7 October 2022, which raised \$36,290;
- A "Last Hurrah" concert to farewell the old organ, involving 12 present and past organists and organ scholars, was held to a well-attended church on 30 October 2022, which raised \$3,150.

It is heartening that Appeal has overall raised \$2.1 million to date. Further events and activities will be planned around the arrival of the instrument from Dobson from late 2023 to continue efforts to get closer to the roughly \$3 million the instrument will cost, not to mention the auxiliary construction work.

Robert Marriott

Chair, The St James' Music Foundation Organ Replacement and Restoration Appeal

THE GUILD OF ST RAPHAEL

The Guild of St Raphael witnesses to the Healing Ministry under the patronage of St Raphael, the Archangel of Healing. (His story is told in the Book of Tobit, found in the Apocrypha and is well worth a read!)

We are a group of people committed to personal prayer on behalf of people requesting our support. It is a confidential ministry for people who prefer their requests not be public, so all names are treated in strict confidence. Not being able to celebrate communion on the first Tuesday each month has meant we have been virtually invisible over the last few years. Being invisible does not mean however, that we do not pray for those people asking our intercessions. Should anyone like to become a part of The Guild membership, please let Fr John know and you will be most welcome.

At Fr John's suggestion we planned a zoom meeting for 5pm Evening Prayer which quickly morphed into Evening Prayer being said every weekday, with special regard to the healing ministry on Tuesdays under Fr John's leadership. Evening prayer is attended by around fifteen people.

Hopefully the monthly Eucharists will return when everyone will be welcomed back to the quiet, tranquil service where people are welcome to receive the Laying on of Hands and Anointing for themselves, or on behalf of someone else. We continue to pray that that time will come sooner rather than later.

Fr John Stewart is the Chaplain of our branch of the Guild and we thank him sincerely for his wisdom and ongoing dedication to this ministry.

Nanette Danks

PASTORAL CARE REPORTS

Networkers

The Covid virus has shown how important it is to have a strong group of networkers who are able to keep in touch with parishioners who are unable to attend St James due to Covid restrictions.

If you would like to become a Networker, please contact Chris Cheetham on 0407 017 377 or email christine.cheetham@gmail.com

St James' Eats

Again, due to Covid restrictions and hesitancy amongst people to gather in large groups there were no St James Eats during 2022.

St James' Men's Group

The Men's group continued to meet throughout 2022, at the Cheetham home.

However with David entering full time care, the Men's group is looking for a new home – if you wish to offer your home for the Men's group to meet in please contact David Cheetham on 0405 199 189 or email cheethamdw@yahoo.com.au.

The Men's group will continue for the next couple of meetings at the Cheetham residence until a new home can be found.

Dates for 2023 are Saturday at 12.00, 11th March, 6th May, 9th September, and 4th November.

If any men are interested in joining please contact Gordon Cooper or David Cheetham.

There is a small charge of \$10 to cover lunch, BYO drinks.

Hospitality

The hospitality teams have resumed with morning tea.

Hospital Visiting Team

On the 16th June 2022 there was a Volunteer Forum held at the Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital for all hospital Volunteers. Topics discussed were Code of Conduct, Governance, Volunteer Group Work and Mandatory Training.

In July 2022 the COVID restrictions were lifted and we started visiting again, only to have restrictions back in two months later, and the ban is ongoing at the present time.

We started the year with six volunteers, and having lost one person we did gain another during the year. More volunteers are needed. Volunteers who must complete a 100 point Identification Form and be double vaccinated.

If you feel this could be your contribution as a layperson to a vital ministry and outreach of St James' please contact the co-ordinator Mary Sattin.

Chris Cheetham – Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator

MORNING PRAYER

At 8.30am every weekday St James gathers on zoom for the office of Morning Prayer - a great liturgical way to begin the day. The group of around 25 people follow the lectionary psalms and readings for each day, with some commentary and discussion afterwards. All are very welcome to join us - just follow the links on the SJKS website.

My thanks to the leaders, Carolyn Lawes, Libby Hindmarsh, Robert Whittle, Stephen Samild and Sue Mackenzie, with particular thanks to Sue for preparing the Ordo each week.

Catherine McClellan

Morning Prayer co-ordinator

EVENING PRAYER

Evening Prayer takes place on zoom Monday – Friday at 5.00pm.

ST JAMES' GUILD OF BELLRINGERS

Lindsay Small continues to do a sterling job as Ringing Master this year. He always makes our Tuesday practice sessions interesting and worthwhile but has faced challenges with reduced numbers of ringers and the loss of one long-term ringer due to ill health.

Lindsay is also working towards his accreditation as a ringing teacher and has been involved in teaching two prospective ringers over the past year. Unfortunately, only one of these has progressed to become a regular member of the St James Band. Another new young ringer has just begun his lessons.

Lindsay has been mentored by experienced teachers, Marylon and Alan Coates. Thanks go to Marylon for her excellent contribution in this essential role and to Alan for organising and supervising weekly simulator sessions. The simulator provides very valuable opportunities for ringers at all levels of experience to work on whatever their particular ringing challenge is, whether it be ringing good rounds or ringing Cambridge Surprise Major method, with a “perfect” simulated band around them.

Plans are afoot for alterations to the bell tower to reduce the noise impact on our new residential neighbours.

The Annual ANZAB (Australian and New Zealand Association of Bellringers) Festival was this year held in Sydney. Over 200 ringers, some from overseas, attended the ringing in eighteen different towers in the Sydney metropolitan area and surrounding suburbs. Several of the St James Ringers attended and had a thoroughly enjoyable time while also progressing their ringing capabilities.

As well as regular Sunday service ringing, we were called on to ring for numerous funerals and memorial services this past year, as well as a handful of weddings.

With the death of Queen Elizabeth II, St James tower, along with towers all over the world, rang at various prescribed times for a specific length of time in recognition of the Queen's long reign and dedicated service.

We are currently seeking new people to take on the bellringing challenge and join our happy band of ringers!

Jackie Dettmann

Tower Captain - February 2023

RESTING SPACE

At Resting Space we are attempting to engage in Spiritual Formation. This is a traditional process for becoming more Christ-like. It is founded on the belief that the practice of certain spiritual disciplines (like meditating on scripture and practicing silence and solitude) can open us to God's deep healing and transforming power.

In 2022 the group continued its practice of fortnightly meetings on Zoom. Monthly face to face dinners have also occurred again in 2022. These are held in a reasonably priced restaurant in the CBD, with a brief time of reflection and time for face to face fellowship.

The Advent Quiet Day we ran late last year, with Aaron, went really well. Interestingly, we got an entirely different cross-section of people coming along to that event – it was great to share the ministry with some new people.

Between ten and twenty people attended the online sessions each fortnight in 2022 – some people coming most times, others when they could. Just under half of the people who've attended don't go to a Sunday service at St James. Some of these people have their own churches they meet with on Sundays. But a small minority don't attend church anywhere else and Resting Space seems to be meeting their "church need".

September 2022 saw the fifth anniversary of the launch of Resting Space. About half the people who regularly come are St James parishioners – this has been about the proportion since we started five years ago. We remain really grateful for St James "auspicing" us.

Nick Ingram

ARCHIVES REPORT

With the easing of Covid restrictions Colin and I were able to resume working on a regular basis in the Parish Archive. We have worked there as volunteers for half-a-day a week (Colin for about 14 years and I for 10 years) but unfortunately health issues have brought our work to an abrupt halt and unless circumstances change neither Colin nor I will be able to continue working in the Archive.

It is my opinion, therefore, that the Parish needs to URGENTLY address the question of the continued maintenance and care of what is a valuable resource, covering two centuries of the history, not only of St James', but also of the Anglican Church in Sydney and the wider Anglican Church in Australia.

The Archive is principally a paper archive and, although some material is now stored digitally, it would take a great deal of time and a considerable investment of time and resources to store our complete collection digitally – the Gold Standard

I indicated more than two years ago that I wished to relinquish the role but so far no one has been found who is willing to take on the task. If it is decided to appoint a new Archivist I suggest that the Church considers paying an honorarium and addresses the issue of car parking in the event that the person appointed requires it. Street parking in the vicinity of the Church is not an option and parking in the Sydney Hospital carpark, St Mary's Cathedral carpark or the Domain carpark, is fairly expensive.

Both Colin and I have enjoyed our years working in the Archive and it is with regret that we have to relinquish our roles.

Gordon Cooper.



Appeal for Archives

Do you have any memorabilia associated with St James' that the Archives could have or borrow, as we move to celebrate the bicentenary of the Church's consecration? If so, please contact the Acting Archivist, Gordon Cooper at rgc@tsn.cc Borrowed material will be photographed or digitised and returned to its donor.

St James' Lunchtime Concerts

Supporting Sydney's Musicians

Wednesdays 1:15pm, \$10

*Enjoy performances by pianists, organists, singers,
solo instrumentalists, chamber ensembles & choirs*

Attend in person or view online for up to a week following the concert

All proceeds go to the musicians and livestreaming costs

sjks.org.au/music/lunchtime-concerts/

S^T. JAMES'
Music

S.^TJAMES'
Bicentenary 2019-2024